GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:875
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF SUN TEMPLES IN BIHAR
SANJAY PASWAN

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop ancient sun temples situated at Patna, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada and Nalanda in Central Bihar in the form of `Sun Temple Circuit` on the lines of `Buddha Circuit`;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the Sun worship being celebrated as `Chhathparva` in whichlakhs of persons from Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh participate; and

(d) if so, the details of efforts being made to develop these ancient sun temples with a view to promote tourism on the lines of Konark Sun Temple?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) The Sun temple at Patna, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada and Nalanda are not declared as protectedmonuments by the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a).